

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Withdrawn) A method of operating gaming devices interconnected by a computer network to a host computer comprising:

- detecting a player associated with a gaming device;
- sending a player identification number from the gaming device to the host computer over the network;
- sending a status request from the host computer to a gaming device;
- transmitting accounting data from the gaming device to the host computer over the same network; and
- associating the accounting data with the player identification number for player tracking purposes.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of operating gaming devices according to claim 19 further comprising reconfiguring a gaming device over the network, wherein the reconfigured gaming device modifies a jackpot payout schedule associated therewith.

Claims 21-87 (Canceled)

88. (Previously added) A progressive gaming system comprising:

- a central computer coupled, at least indirectly, to gaming terminals each of which is coupled to a notification device for indicating the win of a progressive prize;
- a first plurality of said gaming terminals being eligible for a first progressive prize, based on first contributions from said first plurality of gaming terminals;
- a second plurality of said gaming terminals being eligible for a second progressive prize, based on second contributions from said second plurality of gaming terminals;
- said central computer receiving information regarding said first contributions and transmitting information, when said first progressive prize has been won, to indicate a win using said notification device coupled to one of said first plurality of gaming terminals; and
- said central computer receiving information regarding said second contributions and transmitting information when said second progressive prize has been won, to indicate a win using said notification device coupled to one of said second plurality of gaming terminals;

wherein the same said central computer calculates both the amount of said first progressive prize, when said first progressive prize has been won, and the amount of said second progressive prize, when said second progressive prize has been won.

89. (Previously added) A progressive gaming system, as claimed in claim 88, wherein said first and second pluralities of gaming terminals have at least one gaming terminal in common.

90. (Previously added) A progressive gaming system, as claimed in claim 88, further comprising a cluster controller which receives contribution information from at least some of said first plurality of gaming terminals and transmits said information regarding said first contributions to said central computer.

91. (Previously added) A progressive gaming system comprising a central computer coupled, at least indirectly, to gaming terminals each of which is coupled to a notification device for indicating the win of a progressive prize;

a first plurality of said gaming terminals being eligible for a first progressive prize, based on first contributions from said first plurality of gaming terminals;

a second plurality of said gaming terminals being eligible for a second progressive prize, based on second contributions from said second plurality of gaming terminals;

said central computer receiving information regarding said first contributions and transmitting information, when said first progressive prize has been won, to indicate a win using said notification device coupled to one of said first plurality of gaming terminals; and

said central computer receiving information regarding said second contributions and transmitting information, when said second progressive prize has been won, to indicate a win using said notification device coupled to one of said second plurality of gaming terminal;

wherein each of said first plurality of gaming terminals, following play on said gaming terminal, provides an output indicative of a result of said play;

wherein said central computer repeatedly receives, stores or transmits information indicative of a decision as to whether said first progressive prize has been won; and

wherein said decision is independent of said result of play in any of said first plurality of gaming terminals.

92. (Previously added) A progressive gaming system as claimed in claim 91 wherein a decision that said first progressive prize has been won is made only after an event selected from the group consisting of a push of a button, a predetermined result from a spin of a wheel of fortune, and a draw of a predetermined token from a plurality of tokens.

93. (Previously added) A method for providing a progressive gaming system implemented using central computer coupled, at least indirectly, to gaming terminals each of which is coupled to a notification device for indicating the win of a progressive prize, the method comprising:

receiving, in said central computer, first information indicating contributions towards a first progressive prize from a first plurality of said gaming terminals eligible for said progressive prize;

receiving, in said central computer, second information indicating contributions towards a second progressive prize from a second plurality of said gaming terminals eligible for said second progressive prize;

transmitting from said central computer, when said first progressive prize has been won, information for activating at least one notification device coupled to one of said first plurality of gaming terminals; and

transmitting from said central computer, when said second progressive prize has been won, information for activating at least one notification device coupled to one of said second plurality of gaming terminals.

94. (Previously added) A method, as claimed in claim 93, wherein said first and second pluralities of gaming terminals have at least one gaming terminal in common.

95. (Previously added) A method, as claimed in claim 93, further comprising:

receiving, in a cluster controller, contribution information from at least some of said first plurality of gaming terminals and transmitting said information regarding said first contributions from said cluster controller to said central computer.

96. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 93[[,]] further comprising:

providing output, by each of said first plurality of gaming terminals, following play on said gaming terminal, indicative of a result of said play; and

repeatedly transmitting information to said central computer indicative of a decision as to whether said first progressive prize has been won wherein said decision is independent of said result of play in any of said first plurality of gaming terminals.

97. (Previously added) A method, as claimed in claim 96 wherein a decision that said first progressive prize has been won is made only after an event selected from the group consisting of a push of a button, a predetermined result from a spin of a wheel of fortune, and a draw of a predetermined token from a plurality of tokens.

98. (Previously added) Apparatus for providing a progressive gaming system implemented using a central computer coupled, at least indirectly, to gaming terminals each of which is coupled to a notification device for indicating the win of a progressive prize, the apparatus comprising:

means, in said central computer, for:

receiving, first information indicating contributions towards a first progressive prize from a first plurality of said gaming terminals eligible for said first progressive prize; and

receiving, second information indicating contributions towards a second progressive prize from a second plurality of said gaming terminals eligible for said second progressive prize; and

means, in said central computer, for:

transmitting from said central computer, when said first progressive prize has been won, information for activating at least one notification device coupled to one of said first plurality of gaming terminals; and

transmitting from said central computer, when said second progressive prize has been won, information for activating at least one notification device coupled to one of said second plurality of gaming terminals.

99. (New) A progressive gaming system as claimed in claim 91 wherein a decision that said first progressive prize has been won is made only after passage of a randomly selected time duration following a predetermined event.

100. (New) A method as claimed in claim 96 wherein a decision that said first progressive prize has been won is made only after passage of a randomly selected time duration following a predetermined event.